THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): (a) Highway from Panikoili to Rajamunda has been declared as NH No. 215. Rajamunda is already connected to Rourkela by NH No. 23.

(b) Public Works Department, State Govt, of Orissa has been directed to take over the highway and start improvement.

(c) and (d) Funds are not provided National Highway wise but for all National Highways in the State. The allocation for the current yearJor the National Highways in the State of Orissa is as under:—

	(Rs. In crores)
(i) Developmental Works	43.50
(ii) Maintenance & Repairs	35.77
(iii) Special Repairs	23.96

Performance of Public Sector Banks

*140. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total turnover of all the public sector banks;

(b) the number of banks which are in red;

(c) what steps are being taken to improve their performance;

(d) whether it is a fact that some banks are being amalgamated with each other to improve the performance; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Total deposits & advances of Public Sector Banks as on 31.3.1999 are Rs. 636860.03 crores & Rs. 297350.19 crores respectively.

(b) Only two Public Sector Banks reported net loss for the year ending 31.3.1999.

(c) Government/Reserve Bank of India has been advising the banks to improve their performance. In this direction, banks have been advised to reduce their cost of deposit, increase their earning by taking up non-fund business, improve recovery and arrest creation of

fresh Non Performing Assets, accelerate, adoption of modern technology and computerisation of branches and bring down the operating cost, etc.

(d) and (e) There is no proposal under consideration of Government for amalgamation of Public Sector Banks.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Privatisation of Airports

†633. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the airports in the country which are likely to be given to the private sector; and

(b) the estimated increase in the income of the Government as a result of this and- by when this task will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No decision to hand over any airport to the private sector has been taken by the Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Modernisation of Airports

634. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the fund earmarked and amount spent on the modernisation of airports during the last three years;

(b) the proposal of the modernisation programmes as on dater

(c) the work undertaken in that regard for 1999-2000 and also for Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(d) the airport-wise details thereof?

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi